

VOICE OF MISSIONS

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It will contain home and foreign missionary news, and the progress being made by the African races and their descendants throughout the world.

Bishops, Presiding Elders, Pastors of Churches and their wives and families, and no other without a certificate from this office.

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As an advertising medium in foreign countries it has no equal. Every issue will be sent to its yearly price. Should subscribers not be paid, please send in advance, to the publisher, H. M. TURNER, Editor and Publisher.

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NOTICE PASTORS

Pastors of Georgia and Alabama:

Your Presiding Elders have been furnished with circulars relative to

Morris Brown College and Payne University, and they have been directed to furnish every one of you with a copy, and your assessment for

Endowment Day. I am exceedingly anxious that you receive a copy and read the same or have it read to your respective congregations. Should any

of you fail to get a copy, write me at once and inform me who your Presiding

Elder is, for I am desperately in earnest, and no excuse will be recognized or respected, based upon the

ground that you never received the circular, as you or your Presiding Elder or both will be held to a rigid account for any failure or neglect in the

matter connected with the contents of the circular. I repeat, should any of

you fail to get the circular, write me at once. And, should any of you not be able to read it fluently and intelligently

to your congregations, get some good reader, male or female, colored or white, to read it for you.

Fraternally,

H. M. TURNER, Bishop.

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA, LOOK OUT!

Presiding Elder W. D. Chappelle, of

South Carolina, and the members of his District, last year raised \$365 on

Endowment Day for Allen University at Columbia, S. C., and says he will

raise \$500 this year. Presiding Elder R. E. Walls raised \$318 and he, too,

expects to reach \$500 this year. Presiding Elder S. F. Flegler raised \$278

and Presiding Elder J. H. Welch raised \$263 and expects a large increase

this year and no Presiding Elder in the state of South Carolina

raised less than \$170 for education last year. The question now is, what

will they let South Carolina be the game cock and crow loud and strong,

while they drop around like old whipped roosters? We hope not.

Remember South Carolina did well

last year—well as you.

CORNER-STONE LAYING IN SIERRA LEONE.

Our readers must not fail to read

the letter from Sierra Leone in regard to the corner-stone laying of the New

Zion A. M. E. Church. It sounds like a fairy tale, but it is true, and it is true.

Note the donations, if you please, made by native Africans—

Twenty-five dollars and seventy-five cents (\$26.75), twenty-four dollars

and twenty cents (\$24.20), twenty dollars (\$20.00), ten dollars (\$10.00),

five dollars (\$5.00), etc. Our members and friends in this country would do well to go to

Africa and learn how to contribute. Such contributions would be a strange

sight among our people here. This grand communication shows beyond

question that the A. M. E. Church is not dead in Sierra Leone, as some of

our African leaders are pretending, but the truth is, their pretension is

their wish. The devil will have them for hundreds of years before Africa

Methodism will be blotted out in Sierra Leone. As no one could touch

the character of Prof. Snelson, the Presiding Elder, some tried to put on

a false face, but he being too young to manage such grave responsibilities,

but we judge they see now. He has no critic in this country who can

measure arms with him. He will stand as a hero forever. We will say more on our next.

DR. W. H. HEARD, our Liberian minister, were led to believe

in questionable repute at the State Department at Washington, D. C., and

knowing our connection with his appointment, we open some eyes

by yesterday investigating his official status as a business man, and was

gratified to learn that no representative of the government stood higher

in the diplomatic service than Dr. Heard. His secretary is the object of

some criticism, possibly through inexperience, but the Doctor himself is the

subject of compliments. So, if any change should be made, it will not be for inefficiency.

A LETTER which Dr. Heard wrote

in March from Sierra Leone, and got mixed with a lot of other letters which

accumulated in my absence, has just been noticed at 2:00 a. m., the 20th

of August, which sets forth a series of facts, now too late for publication.

However, as we have done and written most of the things he recommends, it will be all right in the main.

BISHOP EMBRY

TRANSLATED.

OFFICIAL ENCYCLICAL ON THE DEPOSE OF BISHOP EMBRY.

To the Ministry of Every Grade, and Lay Members of the A. M. E. Church Throughout North and South America, Africa and Islands of the Sea.

It becomes my painful and solemn duty to announce the unexpected and alarming demise of that great man, pious Christian, scholarly prelate, finished orator, master logician, and universally beloved ecclesiastic, Rt. Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District of our head-bowed and heart-stricken connection, who departed this life on the morning of August 11, in the prime of life and zenith of his fame and giant powers, whether driving his mighty pen or in the pulpit preaching as few are able, or on the lecture platform grappling with almost every question in history, philosophy or science.

In the death of Bishop Embry, both our church and race lose a leader and counselor that they could least afford, if human reason had to decide, especially at this time, when the demands of our church for great and wise counselors and administrators in all of its departments are so numerous and varied. However, as the official organs of the Church will present you, in part, with a sketch of his life, labor and merits, we will not elaborate at present. Upon consultation with a majority of the Bishops, who were present at the funeral services and interment of our distinguished colleague, the following order and directions are hereby proclaimed, and we trust will be faithfully and reverently observed:

1. Pastors and members of all our churches in all sections of the globe are directed to drap their pulpits and churches as much as possible, in the emblem of mourning for thirty days from the reception of this encyclical.

2. That the same Sabbath may be utilized in all parts of our Church, even to the most distant portions of our African work—Sabbath, September 26th, is hereby designated and set apart for the delivery of a funeral sermon upon the merits, worth and lessons taught, in the removal of the late Bishop Embry from the labors of earth to the felicity of Heaven, at this time when it would appear that the church could least afford to dispense with his great services.

3. Whereas the Seventh Episcopal District, through the removal of our late colleague, is left without a Bishop, and the general superintendency is in immediate demand, His Rt. Reverend, Benjamin W. Arnett, D.D., Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District, is hereby directed to take charge of the South Carolina Conferences and His Rt. Reverend, Benjamin F. Lee, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of the Third Episcopal District, is directed to take charge of the Florida Conferences, until the meeting of the House of Bishops early in January, 1898, not later than the 10th of said month. We are sure the brethren of the ministry and laity in general will give their respective Bishops a cordial welcome and hearty support till the House of Bishops shall make a permanent assignment.

HENRY M. TURNER, Senior, House of Bishops.

OUR FATHERLAND.

From Tunis down to Capetown

The call to us, to come, And bring the name of Jesus

The mighty One to save, Send-a-gum-ba-gin with you

And all the land and streams, Are calling for ambassadors

From all enlightened lands, Oh, millions there are sitting

And groveling in darkness, Which men are just like sorrier,

But they are like unto you, Oh, come now, let us reason

Together with the Lord; Their sins, though red as crimson,

Shall be made white like snow, The Lord is marching onward,

And we have heard the call; Ye messengers go forward

And preach my word to all; Lift up your heads, ye people,

And see what God has done; To save the land of Africa

And He has just begun, Help on the gospel message,

Ye servants of the Lord, And all of ye who labor,

Why do ye men sit idle, Why do ye men sit idle,

And calmly looking on; God's calling you for Africa,

While He is marching on, By M. M. PONTON.

OUR CONFERENCES.

The Annual Conferences of Georgia

and Alabama are a source of much annoyance. Letters are coming in from

the North Georgia brethren, from the Macon, Ga., brethren, from the North

Alabama brethren, and now from the Southwestern Georgia brethren, all

objecting to the time, each saying that "we will fall behind in our finances unless you change." We have

longed the best we could. All object to going beyond new year, and then the Conference must be "too soon," as they call it. What difference

will a week or two make in a whole year, if the brethren will half

heartily? We fear it is an excuse to make a big failure and blame it on

the time. We have secret Conferences to hold and everybody wishes their

Conference held almost the same week. We cannot do it, and if we

are forced to make a change we shall run the risk of losing our money and

reputation. The brethren of the North and Southwestern Georgia brethren, all

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THE A. M. E. CHURCH

Itinerant or traveling ministers, possibly a few more, and about 5,000 local ministers and preachers, and 5,000 exhorters, many of whom are practically preachers. As it is said of John the Baptist by St. Luke: "He preached many things to the people in his exhortations. The most minimum calculation would therefore place the Church 15,000 pulpit representatives. Out of this vast number we may not have over a dozen great preachers, and we will do well to find a dozen, for great preachers are scarce among the whites or blacks, or even the nineteenth century. They are few and far between, compared with the middle of the nineteenth century. But that the A. M. E. Church has thousands and thousands of grand preachers, eloquent preachers, oratorial preachers and sensational preachers, needs no argument to establish. It is only necessary to drop into a few of our Churches and give attention.

But when Bishop Embry, whose death is noticed in another column, breathed out his life, a great preacher expired and retired from our ministerial ranks. Like the learned, deep and widely read Dr. John G. Mitchell, he would accept of no compromise in his discourses to be prompted or impelled with the spirit of affectation. The great Dr. Chalmers had a similar proclivity, but it was only ridding the steam valves of extraneous vapors, preparatory to a force application of his discourses to drive everything before it. He was an acute and logical thinker and possessed the difficult art of giving a literary interest to philosophy which we have rarely noticed. Nothing he uttered in the pulpit or on the platform was beyond his knowledge or mark. He had a genius for giving lucidity to the chaotic, clumsy and obscure. He uttered or wrote nothing trite or superficial. He gave fascination and enchantment to every subject or theory his tongue or pen touched, however tedious or prolix. But to be short, Bishop Embry was brilliant as a conversationalist and public speaker, and delighted alike every circle of the cultured and ignorant, the cultured and gifted. He had but little wit, considerable vivacity, was not lacking in repartee, but his animated and sympathetic face, when soul-stirred, carried with it electrical power, and inspired, in the most unassuming manner, his hearers. His predictions frequently assumed the majesty of an oracle. He seldom paused in the midst of any kind of discourse to tell an anecdote or to crack a joke, yet he could enjoy a hearty laugh when others did it. Bishop Embry was an able theologian, and supported every proposition from the Sacred Scriptures as no other minister in the church, to our knowledge, to the exception of Dr. T. H. Jackson, could occupy a parity grade in Theology himself. But unlike Bishop Embry, Dr. J. M. Connor and Dr. T. G. Steward has not, up to the present, given the church the evidence of his ability in book form. While we differ with Bishop Embry on two or three points, treated in his highest on Christian Theology, and had prepared a modest criticism which we will never publish now, yet we are frank to concede his wide and profound acquaintance with his great doctrines. The Bishop was a man of arduous labors, at times a little snarling or dogmatic, yet when the blues passed away he was sunshine and beauty. He gave no countenance to vice and immorality in any

